soon a Bolshevist group was formed within the Soviet as its left wing, in opposition to the "opportunistic" majority in the Executive Board led by the Mensheviks. But this group was rather tame and showed no desire to follow blindly the directives of the Bolshevist High Command. Thus our "generals" remained somewhat suspicious not only of the Soviet but also of its Bolshevist faction and the Bolshevist meeting speakers who manifested more loyalty to the Soviet than to the mysterious Bolshevist Center.

Soon after the end of the strike, the Bolshevist party launched an attack against the Soviet. The issue was how the Soviet should pay homage to the Putilov workers whom Trepov's troops had killed on October 18. Originally the Soviet planned mass demonstrations on October 25, but Trepov issued an order forbidding street gatherings, threatening to suppress them by military force. The Bolsheviks considered these threats a bluff and insisted on the original plan, but moderate members of the Municipal Council persuaded the Soviet that Trepov was bent on bloodshed. With tears, almost genuflexions, they implored that the capital be spared, and the Soviet reluctantly agreed to substitute meetings at plants for processions through the streets.

On the morning of October 23, however, Trepov issued a new order. He would allow funeral processions on condition that they follow an agreed route. It was too late to revise the plans again, but the Bolshevist Center ordered its speakers at that day's meetings to move a resolution censuring the Soviet for its timid tactics. The workers applauded the criticism of the Soviet's decision but rejected the resolution of censure.

After this clash, the Bolshevist organization decided on a new strategy: First, to make the Soviet vote to follow the leadership of the S-D party, without raising the question of factions; next, to ask the Soviet to decide that, being a local St. Petersburg organization, it must accept political guidance from the St. Petersburg organization of the party; finally, to make it clear that the Social Democratic party was officially represented in St. Petersburg by the Bolshevist Committee.

This plan provoked violent opposition within the Soviet. The delegates accused the Bolshevist leaders of an attempt to blow up the organization. The official spokesman of the party, who happened to be a highly intelligent fellow, had to use all his diplomatic skill to mollify the delegates. Thereafter the relations between the majority of the Soviet and the Bolshevist faction remained strained, but this did not affect the group of meeting speakers. Most of the group felt that the Soviet was closer to the masses of workers, and therefore closer to the revolution, than to the party.